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amount of thoroughly trustworthy and interesting information about the birds he treats, and the work will prove of great usefulness as a handbook for this extensive group of birds. We regret that certain idiosyncrasies of classification and nomenclature prevent our according to the work as a whole the same high praise we so gladly give to the introductory chapters, which show that his ideas on many points have wonderfully clarified since he wrote the 'Introduction' to his 'History of British Birds,' some five years ago.—J. A. A.

Ridgway on New or Little-known American Birds.—In the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum, Mr. Ridgway has published during the last few months descriptions of a number of new species and subspecies of American birds, with notes on others little known, as follows :

(1) *Cotinga ridgwayi* Zeledon MS., from Western Costa Rica.* The species is allied to *C. amabilis*, of which it is the western representative. (2) *Spindalis zena townsendi*,† from Abaco Island, Bahamas, collected by Mr. Charles W. Townsend. (3) He has also described the female of *Carpodectes antoniae* Zeledon.‡ (4) *Porzana alfari*,§ from Costa Rica, allied to *C. albigularis* Lawr. (5) *Callipepla elegans bensoni* from Campos, Sonora.|| based on five specimens collected by Lieut. H. C. Benson, U. S. A. (6) *Picolaptes rikeri* Ridgw. is made the type of a new genus *Berlepschia*.¶ (7) *Phacellodomus inornatus* from Venezuela,** and allied to *P. frontalis*. (8) *Megascops vermiculatus*, from Costa Rica, and *Megascops hastatus*, from Mazatlan.†† (9) *Muscisaxicola occipitalis*, from Lake Titicaca, Peru.‡‡ (10) In a paper on *Phrygilus gayi* and allied species, §§ *P. punensis* is described as new, and *P. atriceps*, *P. gayi*, and *P. formosus* are discussed at length, each being described in detail. He endeavors to show "that *Emberiza aldunatei* Gay is a pure synonym of *Fringilla gayi* Eyd. & Gerv., and that *Phry-*

* Description of a New Species of *Cotinga* from the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1887, pp. 1, 2 (April 25, 1887).

† Description of a New Form of *Spindalis zena* from the Bahamas. Ibid., p. 3.

‡ Description of the adult female of *Carpodectes antoniae* Zeledon; with critical remarks, notes on habits, etc., by José C. Zeledon. Ibid., p. 20 (April 25, 1887).

§ Description of a New Species of *Porzana* from Costa Rica. Ibid., p. 111.

|| Description of a new Plumed Partridge from Sonora. Ibid., pp. 148-150 (July 2, 1887).—No allusion is here made to its prior description in 'Forest and Stream' (Vol. XXVIII, No. 6, p. 106, March 3, 1887. See Auk, IV, p. 156, April, 1887).

¶ Description of a New Genus of Dendrocolaptine Bird from the Lower Amazon. Ibid., p. 151.

** Description of a New Species of *Phacellodomus* from Venezuela. Ibid., p. 152.

†† Description of two New Species of Kaup's Genus *Megascops*. Ibid., pp. 267, 268 (Aug. 1, 1887).

‡‡ Description of a New *Muscisaxicola* from Lake Titicaca, Peru. Ibid., p. 430 (Nov. 3, 1887).

§§ On *Phrygilus gayi* (Eyd. & Gerv.) and Allied Species. Ibid., pp. 431-435 (Nov. 3, 1887).

gilus formosus (Gould) is the proper name for the smaller and brighter colored species which Messrs. Sclater and Salvin, and others following them, have considered to be the true *P. gayi*."

In addition to the foregoing, Mr. Ridgway has published (11) 'A Review of the Genus *Dendrocincla* Gray,'* of which 12 species are recognized, three being described as new, namely, *D. lafresnayei*, *D. rufo-olivacea*, and *D. castanoptera*. A key to the species is given, followed by the synonymy of each, and critical remarks.

Ridgway on Wuerdemann's Heron.—Mr. Ridgway gives the results of an examination of eight specimens of *Ardea wuerdemanni*,† which throw much light on the character and status of a bird so little known two years ago that it was assigned to the 'Hypothetical' section of the A. O. U. Check-List. After describing each example in detail (one of which "is clearly intermediate between *A. wuerdemanni* and *A. wardi*, and may possibly be a hybrid between the two"), he states that "the characters of *A. wuerdemanni* are not only very pronounced but fairly constant," and thus summarizes them: "(1) Head entirely white, excepting (usually) dusky or blackish streaks on forehead or median portion of the crown, but even these sometimes absent. (2) Shoulder-tufts or epaulets broadly striped with white, and with black portions of the feathers sometimes partially replaced by rusty. (3) Lower parts chiefly white, sometimes only the breast being streaked with dusky. (4) Lowermost middle (and sometimes greater) wing-coverts marked with a median streak of white (this sometimes occupying a considerable portion of the outer web). (5) Outer pair of tail-feathers with a well-defined wedge-shaped mark occupying basal half (approximately) of outer web." He concludes that *A. wuerdemanni* "would seem to be a permanent form, however, and, if not a color-phase of *A. occidentalis*, is probably a distinct species."—J. A. A.

Ridgway on the Breeding of Trogon ambiguus in Arizona.—Mr. Ridgway describes a specimen of this species,‡ in first plumage, taken by Lieut. H. C. Benson, U. S. A., in the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona, August 24, 1885. This not only proves the existence of a Trogon in Arizona, but that it breeds there. This is probably the species referred to by Mr. W. E. D. Scott, in 'The Auk' for October, 1886 (Vol. III, p. 425), as having been reported to him as occurring in the Catalina Mountains. The species is thus now positively added to the list of Arizona birds.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on Japanese Birds.—In describing a new species of *Turdus* (*T. jonyi*) Dr. Stejneger gives a synopsis§ of the Japanese species of the

* Ibid., pp. 488-497 (Jan. 6, 1888).

† Notes on *Ardea wuerdemanni*. Ibid., 1887, pp. 112-115 (July 2, 1887).

‡ *Trogon ambiguus* breeding in Arizona. Ibid., p. 147.

§ Review of Japanese Birds. By Leonhard Stejneger. IV. Synopsis of the Genus *Turdus*. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1887, pp. 4, 5 (April 25, 1887).